



**UCI-Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
2023-24 Graduate Fellowship Program**
Samueli School of Engineering and School of Physical Sciences

The Samueli School of Engineering and the School of Physical Sciences have established a collaborative partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and have created a UCI-LANL Graduate Fellowship Program. Six Fellows were funded across the two schools in 2022-23: [Engineering](#) and [Physical Sciences](#) Fellows.

For 2023-24, we are accepting fellowship applications as a joint multi-school program and are anticipating fully funding 4-8 Fellows. We encourage all engineering and physical sciences doctoral graduate students who are interested in and have the academic ability to conduct a joint research project that fosters new collaborations between UCI and LANL to consider applying. This fellowship provides unique training opportunities for graduate students, an important foundation for a future research career and enhanced competitiveness for extramural support.

Fellows are required to be co-mentored by a LANL scientist with active engagement; this engagement is project dependent and may include time spent at LANL. Identification of a LANL mentor and a collaboration plan is required at time of application.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students must have a nomination letter from their doctoral advisor. Both student and advisor must have a primary appointment in either the Samueli School of Engineering or the School of Physical Sciences.
- Applicants must be Ph.D. students who are in their 2nd year or beyond as of Fall 2023. Applicants are expected to have advanced to candidacy or are on track with every expectation of being advanced to candidacy prior to April 1, 2024. Applicants closer to graduation must be research active and a UCI graduate student at least through June 30, 2024.
- Applicants of all nationalities are welcome; however, since LANL is a U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory, there may be extra paperwork and screening requirements for non-U.S. citizens.
- An identified LANL co-mentor is required at time of application who will provide a letter of support.

Applications should be submitted via “2023-24 UCI-LANL Graduate Fellowship: Application Form” [google form](#) by Wednesday, June 14, 2023, and must include:

1. **Nomination letter** from the applicant’s doctoral advisor providing concurrence and approval of the proposed research, confirmation that the applicant is in good standing, and indication when the student advanced or will advance to candidacy, and, for more advanced students, when the student is expected to graduate (max of 2 pages).
2. A **fellowship proposal** (1” margins, 12 pt font, single spaced) that must include the following sections:

- a. Abstract: (2400 characters / ~350 words) Provide a brief description of the proposed scope of research, and identification of the specialized facilities, data, instrumentation, or other unique resources that will be used at LANL.
 - b. Research Plan: (3 pages) Identify the specific aims, research activities, and scholarly contributions of the proposed research, including the innovative components that will advance scholarship in the proposed field. Include a description of the lab facilities, data, or resources that the applicant will use, and explain the importance of conducting the research with a LANL mentor. The proposed work is for a one-year time frame (Fall 2023-Summer 2024), but the applicants should provide a general overview of how this research fits in with their overall doctoral research.
 - c. Collaboration and Training Plan with LANL: (1 page) The proposal must outline the mentorship structure and value the LANL co-mentor will provide. This could include specific training and mentorship activities, resources provided, and joint mentorship structure.
 - d. Applicant Statement: (1 page) This statement should describe the applicant's background and why they are meritorious for this fellowship. Include research and career goals and how this LANL partnership will advance these goals. The applicant should explain how they enhance the diversity of the research pipeline via personal experience or outreach/mentorship or how they bring perspectives historically underrepresented in their field or research area.
3. A **letter of support** from the LANL mentor endorsing the applicant and committing to providing the necessary resources, mentorship, and training as described in the proposal (max of 1 page).
 4. The applicant's CV or resume (max 2 pages).

Applications will be reviewed by a joint UCI-LANL committee. Each application will be evaluated for:

1. Qualifications of the applicant and quality of academic preparation: The applicant's academic record should demonstrate their potential to conduct successful research and make significant progress to degree with minimal start-up time, and include evidence of strong, appropriate preparation for the research through both coursework and prior research or training.
2. Technical merit of the research plan: The results of the proposed research should make a significant advance in scholarship and should be appropriate for the level of the student's stage in the Ph.D. program, and be feasible in the proposed one-year timeframe. Relevance of the research to LANL resources and mission must be clearly demonstrated, and endorsed by the LANL mentor.
3. Strength of collaboration and training and potential for long-term collaboration with LANL: The quality and engagement of the LANL mentor and UCI dissertation advisor's support and endorsement of the proposed research and training plan, and level of supervision should be evident. The strength of the collaboration and training plan should ensure the student receives adequate time and supervision and has access to all necessary resources. A proposal should demonstrate collaborative and integrated oversight by both the UCI faculty advisor and LANL mentor and a research plan that requires a collaborative approach with potential for future partnership.
4. Additional considerations: Alignment of applicant with the diverse workforce needs of LANL and their advancement of diversity in STEM. Programmatic decisions could be made to ensure a variety of fields across engineering and physical sciences are representative.

2023-24 UCI-LANL Graduate Fellows are expected to be announced July 2023.

Questions related to this fellowship should be submitted to Dr. Lori Greene, legreene@uci.edu